

03-080-1

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Docket No. 03-080-2  
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD  
AHIS, Station 3C71 4700 River Road Unit 118  
Riverdale, MD 20730-1238

March 26, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

By a majority of hands raised on March 26, 2004 at a packed meeting at Shasta Livestock Auction at Cottonwood California, those in attendance voted NO TO OPENING THE CANADIAN BORDER MAY 15 TO BEEF IMPORTS. All but one person for keeping the border closed; he was from Canada.

All beef cattle should be checked for BSE at slaughter. The only way we will find BSE is if we check all cattle. What a pity USDA can only respond to the economics of WTO instead of giving our consumers both here and our export market consumers, the knowledge that the USA did everything in its power to verify beef clean and without BSE.

I realize President Bush appoints the USDA Secretary of Agriculture, and that if she doesn't do what she is told, she will be replaced. Perhaps President Bush should listen to the consumers and producers of beef, if he wants to retain his position as leader in chief--how would he like his job to be out-sourced like he is doing to beef producers here in the USA by buying cheaper beef from other countries than we can produce it here??? Remember, the November Presidential Election is coming up soon.

COOL--Country of Origin Labeling should be required on all food sold here in the USA. With E-coli on green onions killing consumers last fall at a Mexican restaurant on the East coast, meat is not the only thing that our FDA/USDA should be scrutinizing. By having the Federal Government tell us that we have to have herd-trace-back capabilities, so that they can tell if we were the origin of a BSE cow, it just makes sense that country of origin labeling is a must. How would anyone know if it came from another country--and which herd it came from in that country if an animal had BSE, without COOL and total-herd-traceback?

USDA is putting the USA beef producer at risk by not implementing "COOL" and continuing to allow CANADIAN CATTLE under 30 months of age to enter the USA for seven years. How can boxed beef be checked for BSE? What about Canadian Cattle doing an end-run to get to the USA beef market thru some other country?

The answer is to test all cattle for BSE and label it as to Country of Origin.

Sincerely,

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